

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 271214Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6897

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1 9 7 7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, XA, XF

SUBJ: OPENING OF MEETING OF EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS;
EYADEMA DEFENDS MILITARY REGIME

REF: LOME 1973

1. MEETING OF MIXED COMMISSION OF PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF
EEC AND ASSOCIATED AFRICAN STATES OPENED IN LOME ON 26 OCTOBER
IN COLORFUL CEREMONY AT RPT PARTY HEADQUARTERS. SPEECHES WERE
GIVEN BY LOME MAYOR MARIE SIVOMEY WHO PRAISED CURRENT REGIME
FOR BRINGING PEACE TO TOGO, BY GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIAN ERNST
ACHENBACH, PRESIDENT OF MIXED COMMISSION, WHO SPOKE OF NEED
TO ACCOMMODATE MUTUAL INTEREST IN FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS
WITH ASSOCIATED AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND NEWLY ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATES,
AND BY PRESIDENT EYADEMA. A JARRING FEATURE WAS PRESENTED BY
PRESENCE IN HUGE RPT HALL OF WELL ORGANIZED CLIQUE OF ABOUT 1,000
RPT SUPPORTERS WHO CHANGED PRAISE OF EYADEMA WITH FRIGHTENING
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PRECISION, LEADING MORE THAN ONE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIAN OR

AMBASSADOR TO DRAW PRIVATELY UNPLEASANT PARALLELS WITH EUROPEAN HISTORY.

2. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF INCONGRUITY OF MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN COUNTRY IN WHICH LAST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS DISSOLVED MORE THAN SIX YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT EYADEMA SEIZED INITIATIVE IN AGGRESSIVE, ALMOST BELLIGERENT SPEECH, PERTINENT SECTION OF WHICH IS QUOTED BELOW:

"SOME OF YOU, ACCUSTOMED TO FUNCTIONING OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY, MAY HAVE AGAINST US PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND BE SOMEWHAT FOREWARNED AGAINST MILITARY REGIME SUPPORTED BY UNIQUE MOVEMENT (RPT). AWARE OF THIS APPREHENSION, IT IS IN ALL FRANKNESS AND SERENITY THAT WE SPEAK OF IT TODAY BEFORE YOU. EUROPEAN MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM, APPLIED BRUTALLY TO US AT MOMENT OF INDEPENDENCE, LED US TO EDGE OF ABYSS. IN UNLEASING PASSIONS, THIS SYSTEM ONLY ENGENDERED DISUNITY AND HATRED, WITH THEIR INEVITABLE TRAIN OF BRUTALITY AND TOTAL ALIENATION OF LIBERTY. ARMY HAD TO INTERVENE TO RESTORE PEACE AND FORGE NATIONAL UNITY IN HARMONY AND SOLIDARITY. TO ACHIEVE THIS WE CREATED RPT. WE HAVE SUCCEEDED AND YOU ARE WITNESS BECAUSE THIS MASS MOVEMENT IS BASED ON FREE ADHERENCE AND BECAUSE ITS WORKING PRINCIPLE IS CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE AT ALL LEVELS. THIS IS WHY THIS UNIQUE MOVEMENT, SUPPORTED BY ARMY, HAS OPENED PRISONS AND WHY THERE IS NO LONGER IN TOGO A SINGLE POLITICAL PRISONER IN ALMOST SEVEN YEARS SINCE WE TOOK POWER."

3. TURNING TO GULF BETWEEN WEALTHY DEVELOPED NATIONS AND IMPOVERISHED DEVELOPING ONES, EYADEMA COMPLAINED OF INFLATION OF PRICES OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, CONTRASTING THIS WITH FAILURE OF VALUE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PRIMARY PRODUCTS TO INCREASE IN SAME PROPORTION. PASSING TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL MATTERS, EYADEMA CRITICIZED U.S. FAILURE TO MAKE ISRAEL COMPLY WITH SC RES 242, WHILE CONGRATULATING REPRESENTATIVES OF EEC COUNTRIES FOR ADOPTING POSITION ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT SIMILAR TO TOGO'S (REFTEL). NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, HE WAS UNHAPPILY OBLIGED TO NOTE THAT IN DOMAIN OF ARMS SALES "CERTAIN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE CONTINUE TO

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FURNISH TO ENEMIES OF AFRICA, NAMELY PORTUGAL AND RACIST GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, MEANS TO SUBJUGATE BY FORCE BLACK PEOPLES STILL DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY." HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN FACE OF IMMENSE UNITY ON THIS POINT AT LAST OAU MEETING AS WELL AS ALGERIAN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, COUNTRIES CONCERNED WOULD REALIZE THAT THEIR ATTITUDE COULD ONLY HARM FRIENDSHIP (WITH AFRICANS).
DICKINSON

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